

## Preface

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The concept of holding a Symposium specifically on *Banksia* woodlands was the brainchild of the late Dr Jenny Arnold, to whom this volume is dedicated. In 1987 she approached the Royal Society of Western Australia as a possible host society for the Symposium, the Council of the Society agreed wholeheartedly, and, with Jenny as convener, the program which you now see recorded in this volume was generated.

It was always Jenny's belief, now shared by many of us, that ecosystems close to the Metropolitan area are being so rapidly depleted and degraded that some form of widescale publicity was immediately required to evaluate their current state, and

suggest how future management might be implemented within the inevitable context of multi-purpose usage by a range of public bodies and interests. Having focussed previously on wetland habitats and to a certain extent on the virtually extinct tuart forest ecosystem, the *Banksia* woodlands of the Swan Coastal Plain seemed a highly appropriate topic for reasoned scientific evaluation and debate.

This is essentially what took place at our Symposium, and I commend this volume enthusiastically to you as a focus of current knowledge, and, hopefully, a basis on which future management strategies might be considered.

## JENNIFER MARY ARNOLD B Sc, B A, M Sc, Ph D—An Appreciation

Jenny was born and spent her childhood on a farm which her parents pioneered near Waiki in the outer wheat belt of Western Australia, and although from primary school she had to board away from home she always retained an understanding of farming and a sympathy for farm life. It must have been there that her love of nature and concern for conservation was born.

She went to Northam High School and then came to the University of Western Australia where she studied Biology and completed a double major in Zoology and Botany in 1957. Shortly after graduating she went to work in the Climatology Section of the CSIRO Division of Land Research and Regional Survey in Canberra.

Then in 1961 she went to the University of Queensland as Senior Demonstrator in the Zoology Department before returning to a similar position at the University of Western Australia in 1964. There two of her many talents were displayed: her skill in writing and her deep concern for others.

Her doctoral thesis on the biology of the Native Cat was a masterful piece of writing which received the highest praise from the examiners, one of whom wrote:

"I have only high praise for this exceptionally fine thesis. Her perseverance and ingenuity has resulted in an impressive assembly of new information, which is well reported, and well related to the general subject...."

Jenny was a scientist, but her interests were much wider. She had a love of good literature and when she joined the Department of Conservation and Environment in 1977 she returned to the University to study English Literature and graduated again with a Bachelor of Arts Degree.

Her feeling for the language never allowed her to accept anything but the best in her writing. She was a perfectionist with her own work and drove herself hard to achieve a high standard, one that put a great strain on her at a time during her long illness when she might well have relaxed. But she was a kind and constructive critic of the work of others who sought her help.

Jenny's main job at UWA was in running first year laboratory classes and there she gave of herself in helping the many students. In the words of her Professor she was "almost obsessively conscientious." She was perceptive of student needs, she was interested in them personally and in what they were doing, and gave advice with sympathy and understanding, but without any pretence that she knew best.

The local branch of ANZAAS and the Royal Society of Western Australia especially owe her much for her tireless efforts in organizing their activities - which she was doing almost to the end - and in so doing endeared herself to her colleagues. One of her last responsibilities was to the Fitzgerald River National Parks Association and it was wonderful to see the high esteem in which she was held and the affection the members felt for her.



Another of Jenny's talents was as an artist, with a love of art, and only recently while she was fighting the cancer from which she died she took a course in drawing at the Fremantle Arts Centre. Her PhD Thesis is illustrated with her lifelike drawing of the animal she studied. She also had a love of good music and after she returned from Queensland she sang with the UWA Choral Society choir.

While she was with the Environmental Protection Authority Jenny worked for a year (1985-86) at the WA Water Authority where she was greatly respected and appreciated. There she compiled an inventory of the wetlands of the Swan Coastal

Plain, a mammoth job. This she did with her usual meticulous concern for accuracy and her distrust of the political demand for decisions before there was the relevant information on which to base judgements.

Those of us who visited Jenny in hospital in the last weeks of her life will remember with gratitude how through all her pain and distress she rallied to show her interest and involvement in our interests and activities, and to display her wonderful sense of humour and recall the fun she had shared with us. It was a joy to be with her.

**Ernest P Hodgkin**